

eral Ewell that the command was then in the rear and in danger of being captured. To avoid this risk an all-night march was made, the old brigade joined and the enemy again confronted near Hanover Junction on the morning of the 23d. It was then commanded by General Bryan Grimes, Daniel having been killed at Spottsylvania on the 12th of May, and General Lewis remained in charge of Hoke's old brigade. In this march more than sixty miles were traversed, and the troops were hungry and nearly exhausted. But not long after arriving upon the ground a line of battle was formed northwest of the Junction and earthworks thrown up. After dark this line was abandoned and the regiment withdrawn about a mile to the rear, and occupied the bank of a railroad cut, leaving the brigade sharpshooters in possession of the first line. Next day (May 24), about noon, the enemy in force attacked the sharpshooters and drove them from their position. Companies A and F, numbering about seventy men, under command of Lieutenants Bostic, Farrior and Morris, were detailed and sent to the front with instructions to retake the works. On reaching the works they found that both sides of them were occupied by a regiment of the enemy, supported by a brigade at a short distance to the rear. On the sudden appearance of this small force from the thick woods which covered their approach, they were ordered by the enemy to surrender. To this they responded with a quick and destructive fire at close range, and, after a hand-to-hand fight of several minutes, forced them to the opposite side of the breastworks, and the assault was fiercely continued about two hours. The

enemy, encouraged by the forward movement of the brigade and the firing of a field battery constituting their support, attempted several times to retake the position, but were as often repulsed. A heavy rain having set in, the firing ceased and the enemy withdrew under cover of the rain and approaching darkness. After the rain ceased a survey of the field was made, showing a larger number of dead and wounded of the enemy's forces than the aggregate number of the two companies engaged in the fight. On receiving a detailed report of the affair and its results, General Grimes was heard to express himself to the effect that, all things considered, he believed this to be one of the great fights of the war. These two companies rejoined the regiment after dark, and in a few hours the entire army retired towards Richmond to confront the Union army, then moving in the same direction.

Nothing of special note occurred, except frequent skirmishing, till the battle of Bethesda Church, which was fought on the afternoon of May 30. Further skirmishing took place on the 31st of May and 1st of June, and the battle of Gaines's Mill was fought June 2, and Cold Harbor June 3, in all of which this regiment bore its part.

After the battle of Cold Harbor, the 2d Corps, then commanded by General Early, was ordered into camp near Gaines's Mill and held in reserve till June 13. The sharpshooters of Rodes's Division had been previously organized into a separate Corps under command of Capt. W. E. Stitt (Company B), and numbered about one thousand men, made up of details from the different regiments, the 43d contributing